MAKING OF A PLAY

"Captain Lettarblair,"

MISS MERINGTON WROTE IT

Little Goldie at the Grand - Smith's Offering-General Theatrical News.



NY person who suddenly achieves ies an interest ng character, and these days justify of American timatifical managers are assidu ounly engaged in asserverating that

good plays comonly from the other side of "the pond," the personality of the man or woman who up sets this delusion is a subject of which the public at large and the "suckling Sardous In particular delight to read.

Gentus is a very rure thing, and there are always tota of purchasers after in In fact, so shrewd a manager as Mr. Field, of the Boston Museum, has ordered from Miss Marington a serious play called Goodby," which will be produced in Octoler or November. On the surface "Captain Letterblair"

appears to the outsider only as a play which was given at a trial matinee fast spring, and produced in August at the Lyconn theater, New York. I was curious to know how this young woman, entirely henoment of professional theatrical matters had been able even to secure a hearing for her play from Mr. Sothern, and I confes that the story, as told me by Miss Mering ton, has increased rather than diminished

Miss Merington has long taken an interest in amateur theatricals. She has a lady friend of similar testes, and the embry play wright was constantly augmesting that this, that or the other thing would make a to the lovers of the sensational. It has pretty seens. As Miss Merington is a lady in the way of accessaries the picof high literary attainments, as her con tributions to the magazines will aftest, her friend, who is also an intimate ac quintauce of Edward Sothern, suggested that she adopt dramatic writing as a profession, and promised to send Mr. Sothern to see her. As the actor was at that time sadly in need of a play the preliminary portion of the programme went through without a hitch.

Three years ago Mr. Sothern first visited Miss Merington at the request of the mu tual, and in this case it must be admitted helpful, friend. The interview on that or casion was not a particularly comprehen sive one, as the actor only explained to the aspiring playwright the line of characters which he desired to play. Anong others he mentioned that the Irish gentlems would be a type new to the stace

For a few days Miss Merington busied her mind with concecting interesting stories revolving about the central figure of an Irish gentleman. Then she wrote a first act, sev eral times too long, which she sent to Mr. Sothern, who paid ber another visit in the following spring, and told her very frankly that her work was unactable, but the story as detailed to him possessed vitality. Then he went away, and Miss Merington, in-stead of becoming disheartened, resolutely set to work, rewrote the first act and afterward finished the play.

On the occusion of Mr. Sothern's next visit, after the close of the season, he explained that while he liked "Lettarblair," he believed that it would be more to his interest to play Henry Arthur Jones' "The Dancing Girl" during his next tour, He advised her to sell her comedy to any one who would produce it promptly, but also told her that if she cared to wait until he got mady he would put it on Later in the season, after there had been a good deal of rovising done, Mr. Sothera notified Miss Merington that he would give "Lettaridair" a trial matinee at the Lycenm. This was done, and the press notices were on the whole extremely favor able, although there were manifest crudities to which Miss Merington told me that even she was not blind. Next morning Mr. Soshern delighted the hopeful author with the appearment that he had decited to use "Lettarblair" for the season

summer with that prince of kindly men, Joseph Jefferson. By his advice much pruning was done, aml two irrelevant char- for another season. sciers were ruthlessly silminated, so that month stood forth a nearly faultiess piece of dramatic construction.

Miss Merington is probably less than The Wilburs always play to standing twenty live years old. Her face denotes room in Grand Rapids. the strangest intellectuality, and she has a terse and mrisive manner of expressing herself which is positively exptivating. She is tall, rather slender, and though not object in constitution is a devotee of awimming. She lives in a little cottage-



MING MARGUERITH MERINGTON. Dischause at the corner of One Hundred and Forty first street and the Grand Bonlevard, only a few rods away from the Hudmin river, and it was at a window comreling this beautiful view that "Captain Letterbinic" was dowly crested. con in Miss Merings

ten's experience for aspiring dramatic att times. Had she given up at the first, second or third obstacle encountered suc cos would have sinked her, and the Ameriem stage would have suffered accordingly.

MISS CAMILLE D'ARVILUE.

The Charming Actress and Singer Who Has Delighted New Yorkers.

Miss Camille D'Arville is perhaps best known to theater guers of larger cities | else" "- New York Tribune.

as Mald Marian in De Koven and Smith's opers "Robin Rood," but she has workher way into the hearts of New Yorkers Metamorphosis of Sothern's Editing in "La Massotte," a role which she amouted for many weeks as a member of Heary E. Dixsy's company.



CAMILLE D'ARVILLE.

Miss D'Arville will star on her own book after the present season in an opera which Planquette is now composing for her. This charming actress and singer was born i Holiand, and her artistic training bega at the Amsterdam (Holland) Academy Music when she was but eight years o When a mere girl she had sung in all the principal cities of the continent of Europ-and when she went to London she madan emphatic hit. Since then she has been delighting the people of America as member of the Bostonians and other open

Little Goldie at The Grand. This little actress will return to Grand Rapids with her first success, a western melodrama entitled "A Rocky Mountain Wait." The play will appeal in the way of accessaries the pic-turesque scenery of the rockies and is enlivened by such exciting episodes as are probable in border life. Little Goldie will be remembered as a clever winsome little Miss of fifteen summers

who sings, dances and plays the banjo very well. The last two nights of this engagement she will be seen in a new military play entitled "Across the Line." "A Rocky Mountain Waif" will be presented this evening.

Comedy and Specialty. Comedian Den Howe and Lols Heywood have been re-engaged for this week and will appear in a new comedy called "Confusion," supported by the full strength of the stock company. In the one will appear Leonard and Hart black face song and dance artists, and fourteen other people in various specialties. The program is headed with Manchester and Jennings' comedy "O'Malley vs. Peabody. Other features, such as beautiful wo men, entrancing music and beautiful costumes, are announced. Matinees Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Lobby Chatter.

Henry Guy Carleton is the most classic and the best practical writer among the playwrights of America. His inagery is inspiring and lofty and he has been compared with Shakespeare. The writer read "Memon," which will soon be brought out in Boston in a few days by Fred Warde. The play was written nearly ten years ago, and Mr. Wards says he likes it as well as anything that

he has undertaken in legitin ate drama. E. D. Hain, the gentlemanly manager of the Grand is an old newspaper man. He still has a sympathetic spot for his old profession. He formerly published a good paying country weekly at Howell, Michigan. As a director of amusements he has kept up the reputation of newspaper men who engage in the show business—that is he has prospered handsomely.

Think of the papers to New York rivalling with each other to give col-umns of matter about a London variety music hall singer, who has made a for tune out of that ridiculous song "Ta-Miss Merington spent a part of the past ra-ra Boom deray." The song was done number with that prince of kindly man, by nearly every farce comedy troupe n America last year and seems good

One of the greatest weeks of the seathe piece as produced at the Lyceum last | son at the Grand will be next week, when that popular organization, the Wilbur Opera company, will be there.

> Work has commenced on the new addition to Powers' Opera house in the alley next to Metropolitan hall. This addition will provide the new entrance Work on the interior is being pushed at a rapid rate.

Nat Goodwin promises to be one of the favorite cards this season with his new play, "A Gilded Fool." Clarence Hoyt, well known in Grand Rapids, has a prominent part.

Harry Wood, the affable stage man ager at Smith's, is kept very busy these days with the rehearsals of the new comedies which are produced each

Pity 'tie 'tre true-John L. Sullivan declares that there is nothing left for him to do but go on the stage. Alexander's "Black Crook" will open

at Smith's a week from tonight. Fanny Davenport will act only twenty reeks this senson.

Didn't Mean Exactly That. Mr. William Winter, in his thought-

ful and witty address on the higher education recently delivered in Staten Island, recalled a comical remark made to him last summer in one of the western islands of Scotland. It was uttered ly a pions lady who was extelling the marvelous or storical powers of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon. "That proucher, it appeared, had arrived at a place where he was to speak, and had pleaded a headache as a reason for not speaking; butno substitute could be found, and the famous orator was compelled to ascend the pulpit. 'And if you could only have heard him,' said this enthusiastic admirer, you wouldn't have thought he had a pain in his head-or anything

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OUR MAN OF STYLE

English Styles in Hats Give the Bell the "Go By."

AMERICAN STYLES IN SILK HATS

We Still Cling to the Bell Crown and the Full Roll Rim-Some Slight Changes in Derby Styles.

There are men of fashion whose fad is the very swellest things in pyjamus, some who have a neck tie rack that would put to blush the iridescence of an auroraorealis, many who have a trunk full of tronsers, more who dote on every conceivable style in shirts, but all bow to

the latest style in hats.

There the masters of fads meet on one level. They must have the English or the American styles as soon as they

I had occasion to visit the leading American hatter the day of his fall pening, and on the very day his English styles arrived, and I noticed, with surprise, the march of the army of American swells. The local politician was there for his American silk hat; the business man was in line for the latest in the derby, the soft feit and the



THE PALL STYLES IN HATS.

silk, and the man of fashion, he who intest in the English make.

This make is, after all, the fad of the man who would be an "out-and-outer" in the fashionable world. Nor are they well pleased with the new fall styles that have just come in from abroad. They are too conservative by far. The bell shape is departed from more than ever, and one or two of the styles look for all the world like the straightaway tile the Irishman wears in the play. The brim is full roll, as in the spring style. In the derby the round crown is unchanged and the colors remain absolutely the same. If anything, the brim is narrower.

I then took a glance at the latest American styles and found but little change. The bell-shaped silk is still the vogue, and in the derby there is not the slightest change in either the shape of crown or in its height. There is some slight concession to the English styles in the full-roll brim of the high hat, but beyond that the American silk is sui generis. In soft felt hats the styles at home and abroad remain unchanged.

Among the men I met there was Congressman Warner, of New York, and his friends will probably fail to recognize him in his latest style. That tall white hat, with its creamy, silky texture, and the nap of which always looks as though it were brushed the wrong way, has been exchanged for a black sille. I do not know what Congressman Warner's constituents will say, but I feel like predicting that some of them will ask him where he got it, and, possibly to "shoot it."

But I was attracted a moment later to where De Lancey Nicoll was giving his order for the English styles. The district attorney always shines in the latest from across the deep blue, and I was surprised to see him order a new style hat case, "It is the most convenient thing I have ever seen," said he. "Why, it will hold twelve hats." And the fashionable district attorney is right. There is no question but what it will this season supersede all contrivances of the kind. The case is made to hold six or twelve hats, has a detachable cover, and is designed to fit into a trunk, from which it can be removed without disturbing the bats. The hats are packed so carefully that they cannot be injured in any degree in



trhnsit. The invention is certainly the most thoroughly practical thing of its

Incidentally I took a look at the new gloves for the fall. The tan shades, I am told, will be leaders. The inclination is, however, toward dark colors, and it is safe to predict that the bright, loud tans will not be accorded a flattering reception. There is no change in full-dress gloves.

A new idea in scarfings for fall is a square of silk called in London a "long" shawl." These are intended for fourin-hands or Ascots, or they may be worn as mufflers. I notice, too, that the searfs are again made up in Rumchundas, twills, armures and silks.

I had devoted so much time to gettime at the proper thing in head and ineldentally in neck wear, that I determined to round up my information by acquiring something concerning the fail styles in shoes "Patents" are, of course, in style as much as ever, but us yet the guarantee that they won't "orack" is missing. Said a fashiovable dealer in footwear to me: "I notice that since the 'patenta' have come into such general use the ultra man of fashlon has shown a tendency to avoid the 'extreme polish' style and is looking to durability even at the sacrifice of the mirror-like glisten. Alligator Balmorala will be much worn this fail. They last throng a season without much wear. leaving Grand Happix at 8 o'clock s. But the fad this fall will be m., returning at 8 o'clock p. m. fin the cork sole protector which makes. Fare Grand Haven and return \$1, to throng a season without much wear. golosbes unnerresary. The nicest slice a man can wear, however, is thin leather, say a good calfakin, with a medium bevoled sole and laced plain. Buttoned shoes are entirely out of style, and the Hueber show is regarded by many as "just the thing." In slippers Venetian and Verona shapes are "the go." They are all leather to light shades and Jp on and off easily and signed via Goodrich Transportation hold well when on the foot. In the company, care steamer Valley City. fashionable sine the too is no longer pointed and the heel is broad. The

shoe may be wern tipped or not, as may strike the famey, but, of course, the to is the more fashiombin. I was told that a Fifth avenue shoomaker, who has the lasts of the best set in the fashtonable world, has introduced a new style of shoe for his patrons which will be exclusive, indexed. It is the very opstyle of shoe for his patrons which will posite, I am told, of the ladies high beel, the heel really being broader at base than at the top. Then, | ... too, he has modified the gen-eral contour of the toe, making it broader than ever. The shoe laces high, very high indeed. In riding out-

fits, I am told, the etyles remain abso-

lutely without change as to footwear.



ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the teste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleaness the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cores habitual constipution. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and achows at the shrine of every season's ceptable to the stomach, prompt in styles, was there to select the very its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

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Mothers and Daughters.

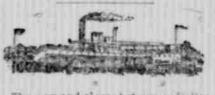
Over twelve years I was all cted with a very serious female difficulty and for the last sixteen months was under treatment of three of the very best physicians that money could employ. Under their skillful treatment I gradially grew worse, until they decided they could render me no permanent help. One of my friends persuaded me to try a bottle of Dullam's Great German Uterine Tonic, and after taking three bottles, I can say I am in better health than I have been for twenty years, and am now 60 years old, but feel as young as at 30. June 2, 1800.

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